



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture



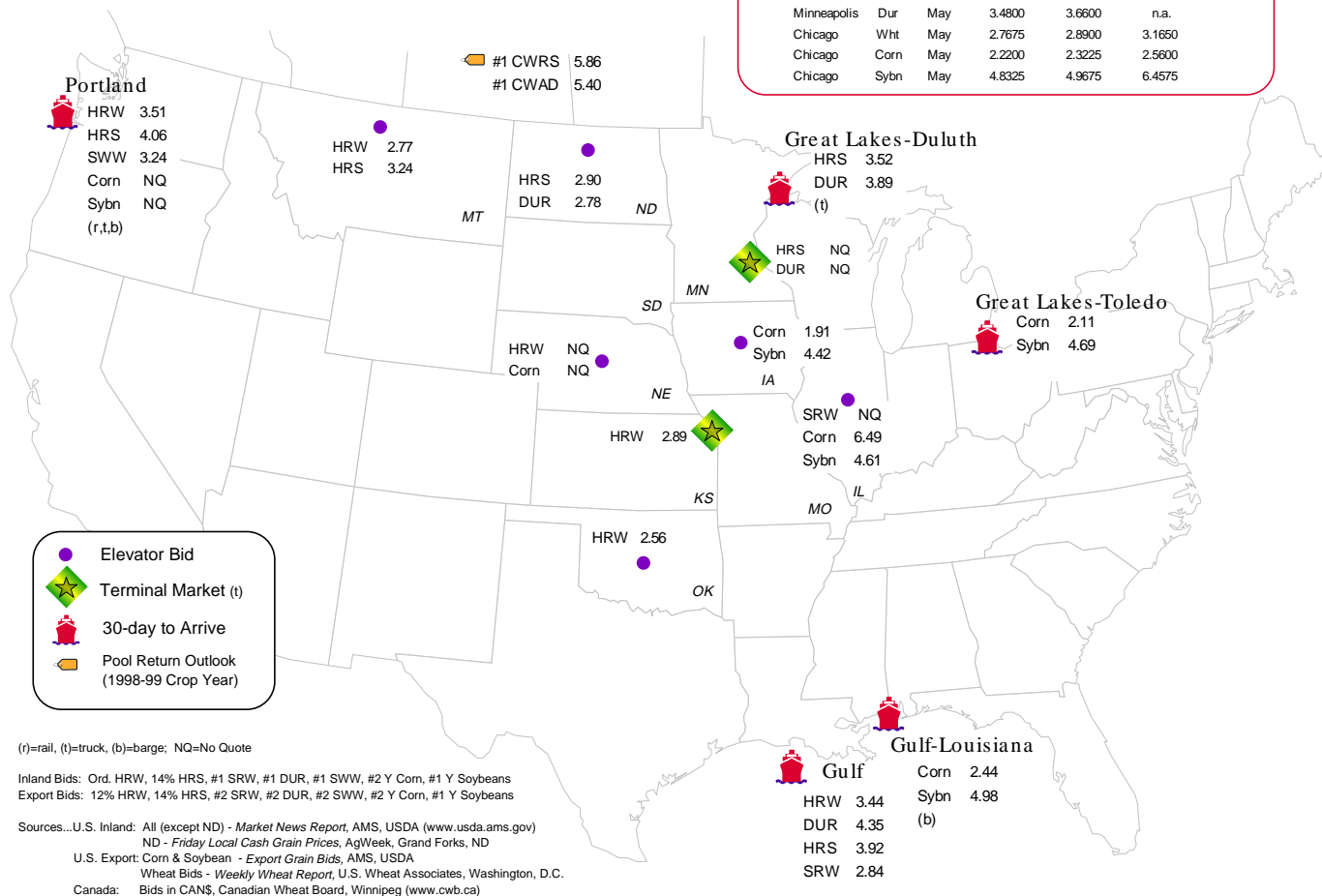
APRIL 5, 1999

April 13-15	Towards An Agenda For Ag. Research In Europe	The Netherlands	Mrs. Will Bodde +31-317-484008 (ph) +31-317-485309 (fax) will.bodde@alg.vl.wau.nl
April 18-22	Food Protection '99	Indianapolis, IN	Barb Bass 317-869-9300
April 26-27	Transportation Situation & Outlook Conf.	Ottawa, Canada	Ed Cuylits ecuylits@bbinternational.com
April 26-28	Soy Foods '99	Chicago, IL	800-882-8684 (ph) info@iqpc.com
May 2-5	American Institute for Shippers Associations 39 th Annual Conference	Marco Island, FL	Glen Cella 202-628-0933 (ph)
May 12-14	International Navigation Association (PIANC) Annual Meeting	Memphis, TN	Mary Jane Robertson 703-428-6286
May 17 -19	American Feed Industry Assoc. (AFIA) Expo '99	Minneapolis, MN	703-524-0810 (ph) 703-524-1921 (fax) afia@afia.org
May 23-28	10 th International Soil Conservation Organization Conference (Sustaining The Global Farm)	West Lafayette, IN	765-494-8673 (ph) 765-494-5948 (fax) isco99@ecn.purdue.edu
June 3-6	Crossing Borders: Food and Agriculture In The Americas	Toronto, Ont., Canada	Jo Marie Powers 519-822-3086 (ph) 519-822-6534 (fax) jpowers@uoguelph.ca
June 14-15	Functional Foods: Strategies For The Food Industry	Newport Beach, CA	651-454-7250 (ph) 651-454-0766 (fax) aacc@scisoc.org
June 15-17	Ag. Biotechnology...Food, Feed and Fiber	San Diego, CA	800-882-8684

This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov.

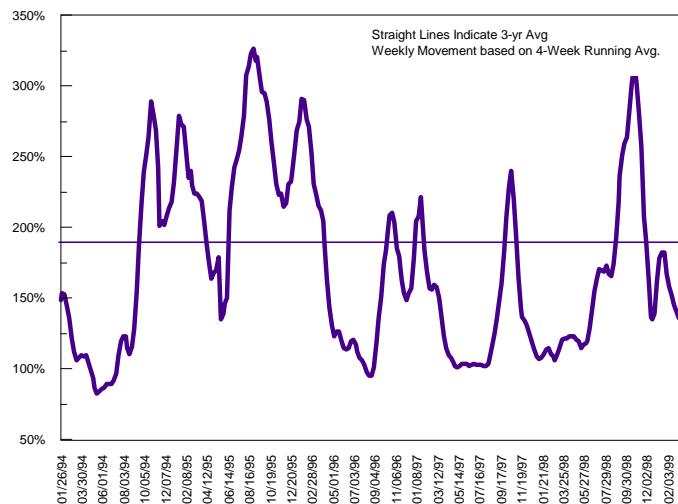
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600. To file a complaint, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9419, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Grain Bid Summary

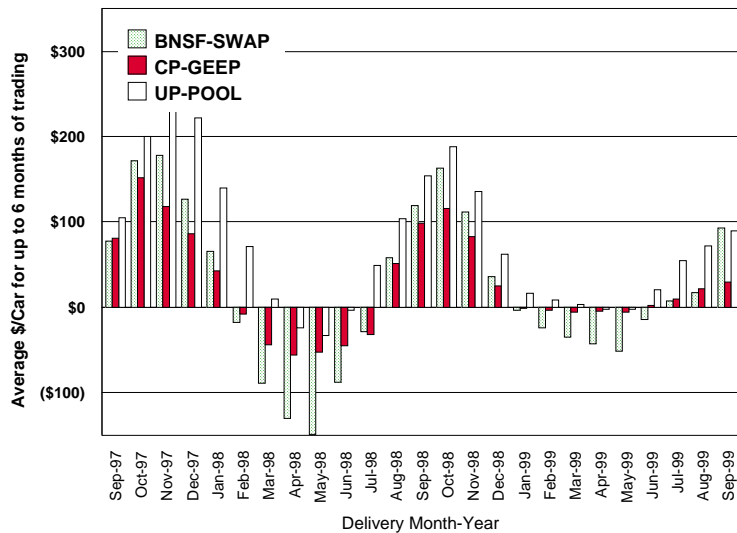


Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate



Secondary Rail Market Bids

See the Grain Trax page at www.ugpti.org for more graphs of rail premiums.

Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Apr-99		May-99	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	5,400	7%	5,257	5%
UP-GCAS	5,400	2%	5,400	3%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-09
BNSF-GF	\$0	\$(37)	\$(17)	\$12
CP-GEEP	\$4	\$(5)	\$3	\$18
UP-Pool	\$0	\$(5)	\$5	\$48

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99
COT/N. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
COT/S. Grain	no offer	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	no offer	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 4	no offer	no offer	no offer

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com,
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values***

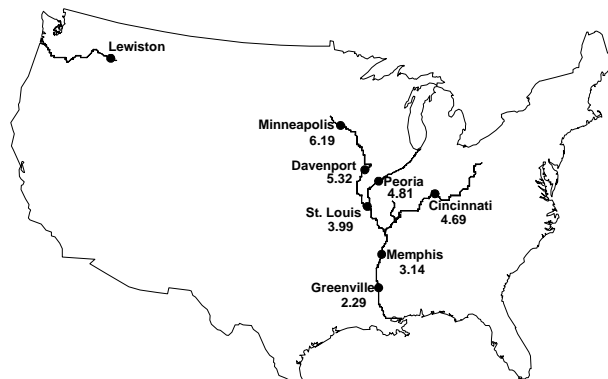
Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
4/1/99	Illinois River	twk	150
		nwk	155
		May	130
		June	120
	Mid Miss	April	160
	St. Paul-Savage	nwk	205
	Lower Ohio River	nwk	125

Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week
nwk=next week**Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates**

	3/31/99	3/24/99	April '99	June '99
Twin Cities	204	221	195	183
Mid-Mississippi	169	193	161	149
Illinois River	155	183	150	139
St. Louis-Cairo	132	150	121	115
Lower Ohio	129	143	118	121
Cairo-Memphis	124	143	112	110

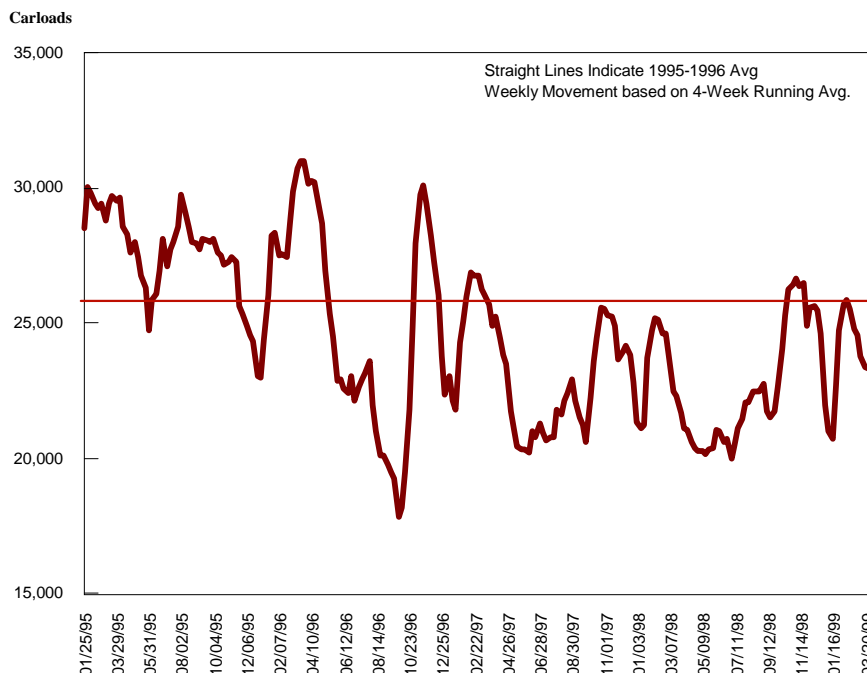
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA
nq- no quote**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**

Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
3/13/99	22,394
3/20/99	22,549
3/27/99	23,044
Year to Date - 1999	291,622
Year to Date - 1998**	284,196
Total 1998**	1,183,860
Total 1997*	1,199,995
Source: American Association of Railroads	

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

	Conrail	CSXT	East		West			Canada	
			IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
03/27/99	925	2,686	1,545	2,445	7,498	647	7,298	1,353	2,957
This Week Last Year	529	2,743	1,371	2,499	8,050	510	5,802	2,624	5,003
1999 YTD	9,761	31,400	17,619	31,346	100,362	8,527	92,607	22,723	34,416
1998 YTD*	9,293	30,374	15,659	31,390	108,901	8,651	79,928	33,904	52,602
1997 Total**	29,834	118,581	80,255	124,834	428,243	34,690	378,888	171,428	272,156
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387

Source: American Association of Railroads

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

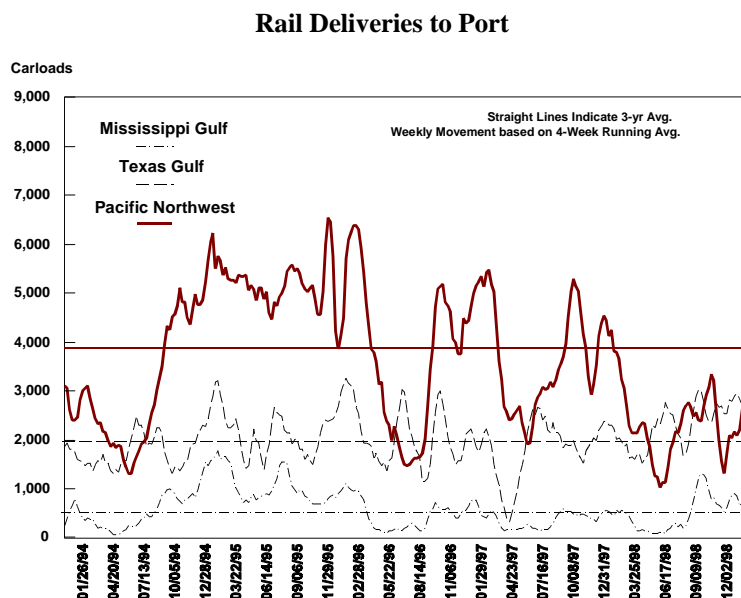
April 1999

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
03/01/99	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,150	\$19.51	\$0.65
03/01/99	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,442	\$40.31	\$1.33
03/01/99	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,850	\$16.79	\$0.56
03/01/99	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,226	\$38.35	\$1.27
03/01/99	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,205	\$38.16	\$1.26
03/01/99	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
03/01/99	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,100	\$24.74	\$0.87
03/01/99	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
03/01/99	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,330	\$30.22	\$1.00
03/01/99	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,030	\$27.50	\$0.91
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

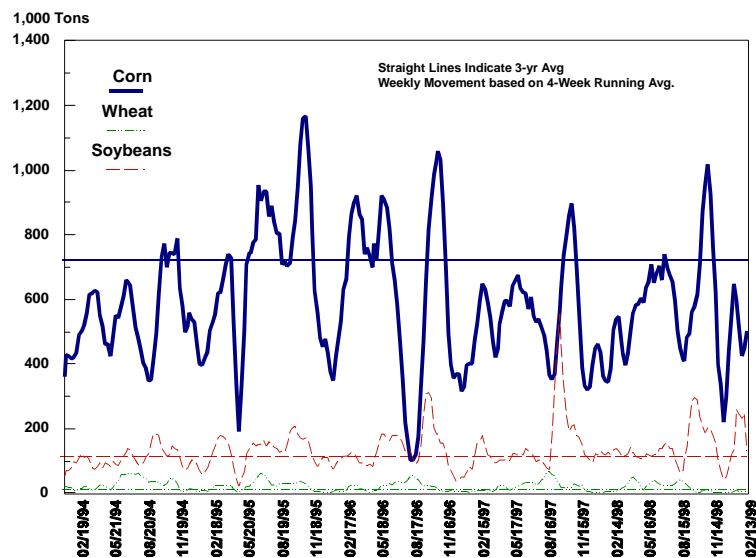
Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
02/17/99	673	3,238	2,183	375
02/24/99	462	2,642	2,631	580
03/03/99	606	2,061	3,190	179
03/10/99	334	1,947	3,324	846
03/17/99	654	2,342	2,426	390
03/24/99	178	1,816	2,349	85
YTD 1999	7,682	30,909	28,439	4,820
YTD 1998	5,841	25,495	46,978	4,242
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				



***Note:** Due to technical difficulties, data revisions have had to be made to the above data, dated back to 02/03/99.

Barge Movements - Locks 27



Barge Grain Movements

for week ending 03/27/99

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
1,000 Tons				
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	255	2	42	299
Winfield, MO (L25)	428	2	80	512
Alton, IL (L26)	684	8	128	823
Granite City, IL (L27)	702	8	139	852
Illinois River (L8)	260	5	32	296
Ohio (L52)	42	1	27	126
Arkansas (L1)	0	25	4	29
1999 YTD	5,485	243	1,945	8,757
1998 YTD	5,708	275	1,728	8,961
Total 1998	31,226	2,420	8,866	45,625
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Export Balances* (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
03/25/99	1,444	636	1,026	594	213	3,914	7,197	2,822	13,933
This Week Year Ago	1,259	208	1,026	517	156	3,164	6,767	1,823	11,754
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
98/99 YTD	8,651	1,735	5,392	4,673	789	21,239	26,310	16,020	63,569
97/98 YTD	8,222	4,478	5,100	4,760	1,105	23,665	21,238	17,713	62,616
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942
95/96 Total									

Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
04/01/99	274	184	0	118	496	302	0	13	4
1999 YTD	2,724	1,970	67	1,360	8,591	4,736	1,632	162	573
1998 YTD *	2,452	2,025	314	1,625	6,650	5,856	1,589	29	457
% of Last Year	25%	45%	10%	27%	27%	32%	22%	29%	41%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

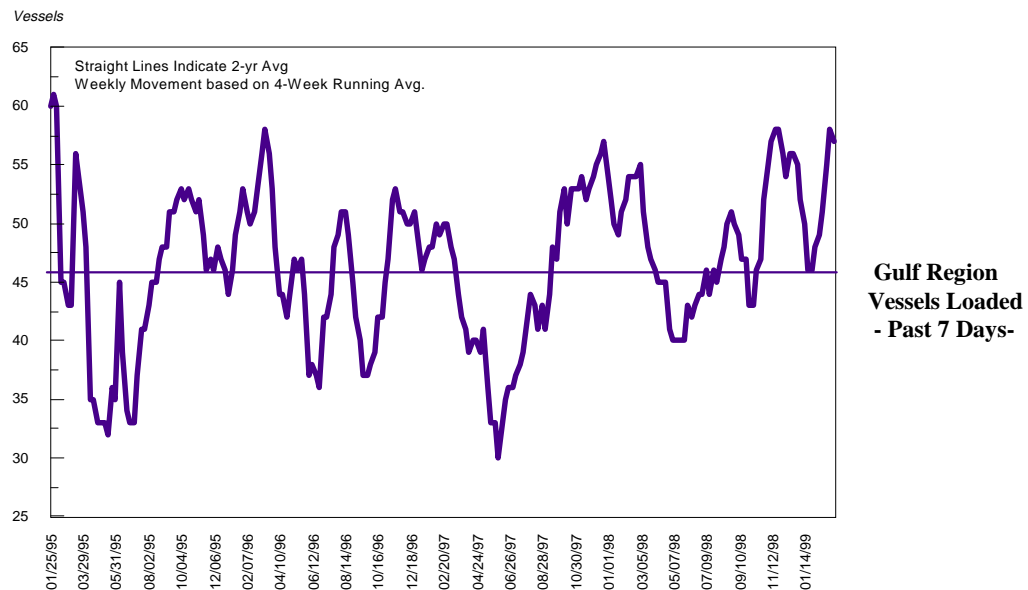
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service * YTD-Year-to-Date ('98 = 53 week period)

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

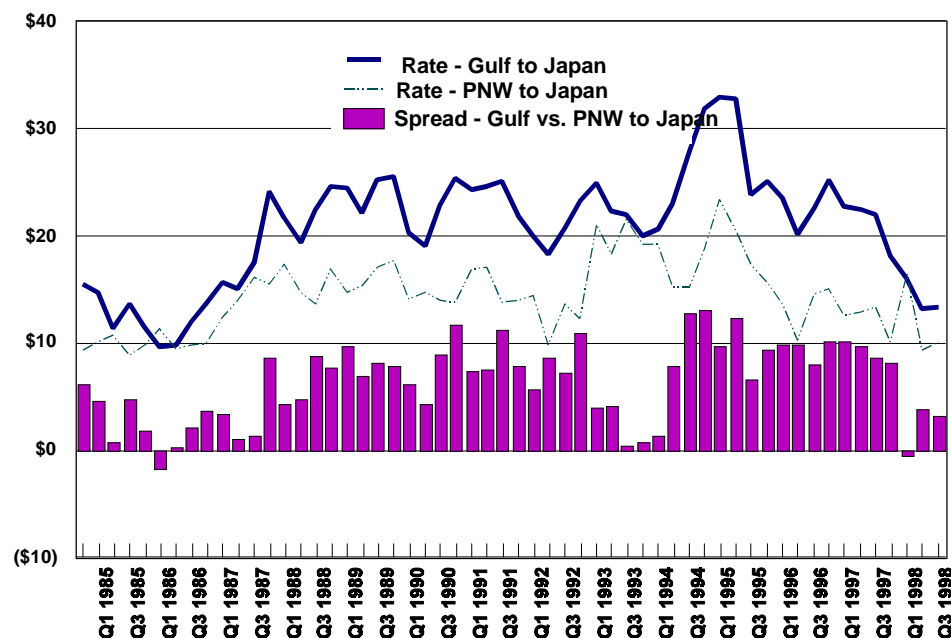
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 03/25/99			
Vancouver	2,806	624	248
Prince Rupert	1,207	7	0
Prairie Direct	586	304	162
Thunder Bay	295	93	144
St. Lawrence	1,231	1,143	0
1999YTD Exports	6,434	2,180	554
1998 YTD Exports	11,307	2,708	1,594
% of Last Year	57%	81%	35%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago **
YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31**Note:** Updates have not been received for Canadian Export Inspections.
Updates should be provided in the next report.



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>
03/25/99	30	55	68	7			11	14	4
04/01/99	34	48	53	8			n/a	n/a	n/a
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)						
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1998 Avg	40	48	61						
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1998 4 th Qtr	1997 4 th Qtr	% Change		1998 4 th Qtr	1997 4 th Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$13.33	\$22.01	-39%	Japan	\$10.17	\$13.34	-24%
Mexico	\$14.41	\$13.97	3%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$20.18	
Venezuela	\$10.87	\$13.59	-20%				
N. Europe	\$8.81	\$11.34	-22%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$15.26	\$14.80	3%	N. Europe	\$12.56	\$16.12	-22%
				Japan		\$23.23	

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 04/03/99

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
St. Lawrence	Algeria	Wheat	April	25,000	\$17.75
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	April/March	54,000	\$15.25-16.00
Gulf	So. Korea	Heavy Grain	April	50,000	\$14.75
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	April	56,000	\$14.55
Gulf	Europe	Grains	April	27,500	\$14.00
PNW	Japan	Heavy Grain	April	54,000	\$9.30-10.00
PNW	Taiwan	Heavy Grain	April	54,000	\$8.80
Brazil	So. Korea	Heavy Grain	May	50,000	\$15.30
River Plate/B. Blanca	Japan	Heavy Grain	April	54,000	\$18.00
Sweden	Saudi Arabia	Barley	April	50,000	\$14.00

Source: Maritime Research Inc.